

Remarks

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Office Action dated October 11, 2001.

The above amendments and remarks to follow are intended to be fully responsive thereto.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 28 and 29 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mockridge. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claims 1 and 28, Mockridge fails to disclose a “a shaft securing portion homogenously formed adjacent to said heel wall and extended from said top portion to said sole portion” or “a shaft securing portion, provided with a top portion, homogenously formed by cast”. Mockridge discloses a shaft securing portion that may be integrally formed with one of the parts comprising the club head, i.e., the sole portion. See page 1, lines 20-22. Further, the socket comprises separate interfitting elements which are themselves connected to the parts of the head. Whereas, the current invention teaches integrally casting a shaft securing portion from the top portion to the sole portion of the club head. See page 12, lines 10-14. Thus, since Mockridge fails to disclose “a shaft securing portion homogenously formed adjacent to said heel wall and extended from said top portion to said sole portion”, any rejection of claims 1 and 28 under 35 USC § 102 is improper.

Regarding claims 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18 and claim 29 which depend from independent claims 1 or 28, the rejection of these claims are moot, in light of the Applicant’s arguments above.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Endo et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Endo fails to disclose “a shaft securing portion homogenously formed adjacent to said heel wall and

extended from said top portion to said sole portion". Endo discloses a **neck or heel member having an integral shaft securing portion** that is inserted to the club head and then welded thereon. Endo fails to disclose wherein the shaft securing portion is integrally formed with the club head as claimed in the present application. Since Endo fails to disclose "a shaft securing portion homogenously formed adjacent to said heel wall and extended from said top portion to said sole portion", rejection under 35 USC § 102 is improper. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 16 depend from base claim 1, thereby making the Examiner's rejection of these claims moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 13, 17 and 20 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Mockridge in view of Minabe. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 13, 17 and 20 depend from claim 1 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Arguing innuendo, regarding claim 17, Minabe fails to disclose wherein "a support portion connects said shaft securing portion and said heel wall". Minabe discloses a semi-cylindrical pipe retaining groove 34 formed about a portion of the side peripheral bottom surface, wherein the groove is equal in length to that of a welding portion on the shaft. The shaft is inserted along the groove and then welded in place. Rather, the support portion of the present application is a thin and blade-like support column for connecting the shaft securing portion and the heel wall **to each other**. See page 35, lines 25-27, emphasis added. Therefore, because the prior art fails to disclose wherein "a support portion connects said shaft securing portion and said heel wall", any rejection under 35 USC § 103 is improper.

The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 4 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Mockridge in view of Motomiya. Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1, which the

applicant believes is in condition for allowance, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Mockridge in view of Mills. Claim 19 depends from claim 1, which the applicant believes is in condition for allowance, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection.

Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: February 4, 2002

  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KUSUMOTO, et al.

Appl. No.: 09/522,296

Group Art Unit: 3711

Filed: March 09, 2000

Examiner: PASSANITI, S.

Title: GOLF CLUB HEAD

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**APPENDIX OF AMENDMENTS**

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1-4 as follows:

1. (Amended) A golf club head comprising:

a cast body constituted by a hollow outer shell;

said hollow outer shell defining a top portion, a sole portion, a heel wall and a toe portion;

a shaft securing portion formed adjacent to said heel wall and extended from said top portion to said sole portion; and

a first hollow portion formed between said shaft securing portion and said heel wall of said head body,

wherein said shaft securing portion is formed homogeneously with said hollow outer shell to provide a one-piece, unitary, homogenous body.

15. (Amended) A golf club according to claim 1, wherein as edge is formed between said sole portion and said heel wall[.] at a heel side near [than at least] said shaft securing portion.

19. (Amended) A [Golf] golf club head according to claim 1, wherein an upper end portion of said shaft securing portion is provided lower than a top of said top portion.

28. (Amended) A golf club head comprising:

a head body constituted by a hollow outer shell;  
a shaft securing portion, homogeneously formed by casting [provided] with [at least one of] a top portion [and a sole portion, formed by cast, the other side of said top portion and said sole portion fixed to said one of said top portion and said sole portion];  
and

a sole portion fixed to said top portion;  
wherein a hollow portion is provided between said shaft securing portion [hollow portion] and at least one of a heel portion and a face portion of said outer shell.